

See Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 05-12, page 6

Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 29

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

July 22, 2005

Laughlin welcomes Innkeeper team

By 1st Lt. Sheila Johnston
Public Affairs

Laughlin's award-winning lodging staff is again hosting the Air Force Innkeeper inspectors here July 25 as they compete for their second Air Force-level win against six other bases worldwide.

Laughlin Manor received the Air Education and Training Command 2005 nomination to compete for the Air Force Innkeeper's best lodging facility, a competition they won in 2004 after opening the doors on a new facility that January. They will compete against Dyess AFB, Texas; Grand Forks AFB, N.D.; Hill AFB, Utah; Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; Misawa AB, Japan; and Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

"It is quite an honor for Laughlin Manor to be selected as AETC's nominee for the second year in a row," said Maj. Rebecca Bahm, 47th Services Division director. "We have been working on many improvements since last year, and we hope to be even more competitive this year and garner the Air Force title for the second time running."

The facility received upgrades after winning \$20K in 2004 and \$30K in 2005 for consecutive AETC wins. The business center, vehicles, and guest amenities

See 'Innkeeper,' page 4



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

Piper Cub and Charlie Bean greet their owners, 2nd Lt. Will Sack, of the 47th Operations Support Squadron, and his wife, Elizabeth, in Laughlin's pet-friendly temporary lodging facility. According to Elizabeth, having their dogs move in with them makes the dogs feel secure. "This is a perfect opportunity for the pets to move in with everybody, and it makes it easier on the pets because staying in a kennel isn't always a good experience for them. It's a great thing, and we are really excited."

Officials emphasize drinking-age policy

By Master Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public Affairs

Military members here under the age of 21 are reminded to correctly follow a policy that allows them to possess and drink beer and wine on base.

A waiver was recently reinstated at Laughlin that allows underage military members to purchase malt beverages and wine at Services and Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities, which includes Club Amistad, Club XL, the bowling center, base exchange and shopette.

The director of services at major

commands is authorized to grant an exception to policy and lower the drinking age at Air Force installations located within approximately 50 miles of a state that has a lower drinking age, according to Air Force Instruction 34-219, Alcoholic Beverage Program.

Since Laughlin borders Mexico, a state with lower drinking age limits, the wing commander here requested an exception to allow active-duty members between 18 and 21 to consume beer and wine on base. The Air Education and Training Command services direc-

tor approved the waiver for Laughlin.

The exception was requested in an effort to reduce the likelihood that members would drive while intoxicated, said Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant. "AFI 34-219 and Laughlin's exception to policy letter refers to active-duty personnel only."

While consuming alcoholic beverages, those covered by this policy are to strictly adhere to the rules. Military members may drink beer and

See 'Drinking policy,' page 4

Newslines

Quarterly awards lunch

The 47th Flying Training Wing 2nd Quarter Awards Lunch is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Club XL.

Those wishing to attend should call their unit point of contact to sign up.

For details, call 298-5703 or 298-4635.

Assumption of command

The 84 Flying Training Squadron will hold an assumption-of-command ceremony July 29 at 9 a.m. on the flight line.

For more information, call Capt. Tracie Pratt at 298-5726.

Enlisted promotion ceremony

An enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m. July 29 at Club XL.

Deployment stats

Deployed:	61
Returning in 30 days:	1
Deploying in 30 days:	0

Mission status

Mission capable rate
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 84.7%	T-38A, 73.6%
T-6, 88.7%	T-38C, 80.9%

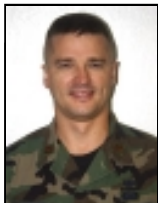
Alcohol-related incidents

January to July 2004 8

Jan. 1 to July 20, 2005 15

Days since last incident 18

There's fairness, justice in UCMJ



Commander's Corner

By Maj. Andrew Foltz
47th Flying Training Wing
Staff Judge Advocate

Among the many liberties we serve to protect for our nation, few are as important as our own system of justice. One of my principal duties as the 47th Flying Training Wing Staff Judge Advocate is to administer Laughlin's military justice program in a manner that helps commanders maintain good order and discipline in their units, protects the rights of crime victims and witnesses, and promotes accountability through fair administrative and judicial processes.

The conduct of military members is governed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, violations of which can be prosecuted by courts-martial. Because the UCMJ is distinct from the more familiar civilian justice system, some wonder whether military members are subject to rules less protective than those we defend for civilians.

Rest assured, the military justice system gives servicemembers virtually all the same rights and privileges afforded in civilian courts. In many areas, such as the right to counsel, the right against self-incrimination, pretrial investigations, discovery, sentencing, and appeals, the protections afforded servicemembers exceed those available in civilian courts.

Consider the following examples.

■ **Self-Incrimination:** To protect citizens from forced or false confessions, the Constitution requires suspects be read their rights when in custody and

being interrogated. Civilians questioned while in custody receive the familiar Miranda warnings which include the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney. Article 31, UCMJ, offers military members the same rights but provides greater protection. Article 31 applies whenever members are even suspected of a UCMJ violation, and regardless of whether they are in custody.

Therefore, when AFOSI, security forces or even supervisors question someone suspected of a UCMJ violation, they must first read the member his or her Article 31 rights. This rule protects members from incriminating themselves before a formal investigation ever begins.

■ **Right to Counsel:** In the civilian system, a court will provide a defense attorney only if the accused cannot afford one. In the military, members accused of a UCMJ violation are entitled to highly qualified defense counsel at no charge and regardless of their financial status.

■ **Greater Flexibility:** In the civilian world, a prosecutor's only option is whether or not to go to trial. Although military members may be prosecuted by a court-martial, lesser options such as non-judicial punishment under Article 15 and letters of counseling or reprimand are available to commanders for less serious offenses. Also, military members are often given multiple chances for rehabilitation before facing a court-martial.

■ **Appeals:** The civilian system grants no automatic appeals except in death-penalty cases. In contrast, court-martial convictions are automatically reviewed by the commander who convened the court-martial. The convening authority may dismiss findings of guilt, reduce the sentence, or grant other re-

"The military justice system proves itself every day across very different operational settings. Not only does it hold the men and women of the armed forces accountable for their actions, but it also treats them with the fairness, dignity, and the respect they deserve for their service."

quested relief. Depending upon the sentence, most cases are then automatically appealed to an intermediate military court of appeals. After that, the case may be appealed to the civilian Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and ultimately to the Supreme Court. This system provides civilian oversight and ensures members receive fair and impartial trials.

These are just a few of the ways the military justice system provides greater protection to defendants than its civilian counterpart.

As renowned defense attorney F. Lee Bailey (of O.J. Simpson fame) recently commented, "Military court, compared to most civilian courts, is refreshing in many respects . . . The pretrial discovery features are the best and most complete of any system . . . Military juries are nearly always made up of intelligent commissioned officers . . . There are no hung juries, and verdicts are usually reached swiftly. I still try courts-martial on a regular basis, and still enjoy them more than any other trials."

The military justice system proves itself every day across very different operational settings. Not only does it hold the men and women of the armed forces accountable for their actions, but it also treats them with the fairness, dignity, and the respect they deserve for their service.

Border Eagle

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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



**Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

– 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

What does it take to be a real hero?

By Melissa Davis
Laughlin spouse

Since childhood, I've often wondered what it takes to be a real hero.

Is it something one does over a long period of time like a profession? Or is it something one does in a crisis that possibly saves a life?

Over the past few weeks I've had some time to dwell on this topic, and I've decided it encompasses both these and much more.

You see, a hero is someone who, no matter the cost, is willing to sacrifice themselves for the greater good.

We see people every day – police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, teachers and leaders – who certainly qualify as heroes. But there is one place you can find all these types of heroes and many more – our men and women serving in the United States military!

Just look around you tomorrow and you will notice all the wonderful individuals serving our nation and one another.

I could go on and on about all these extraordinary men and women, but I'd like to tell you about five Team XL heroes who went above and beyond the call of duty... for my husband.

My husband has had three surgeries with multiple complications and contracted a blood disease that he is fighting now. He became gravely ill and was admitted to the local hospital on an emergency basis. As his health began to spiral drastically downward, he urgently needed to be moved to Wilford Hall in San Antonio.

Here is where the everyday heroes come in. Two angels from Team XL facilitated an ambulance transport to San Antonio in the middle of the night over the weekend.

Three more were tasked, and none batted an eye or complained about the challenge at hand. As a matter of fact, all three volunteered to do whatever it took to help their fellow servicemember.

Three of the heroes are Maj. Sharon Walker (Nurse), Tech. Sgt. Jason Hamelback, and Airman 1st

Class Courtney Laurell, 47th Medical Group. Without these everyday real heroes, my husband's condition could have continued to worsen as the hours ticked by awaiting transportation.

My family and I want everyone to know the great job all five of these individuals have done and will certainly do again and again throughout their lives. Without everyday real heroes like these, my husband might not be here for us today to continue to serve as my hero.

These real heroes say they were only doing their jobs, but I thank God every day there are everyday real heroes who do their jobs and never miss a beat.

To these heroes, thank you again for all you did and continue to do! If any of you reading this cross paths with these individuals, please tell them "thank you" for the jobs they do day in and day out, for without them our lives wouldn't be the same – I know my family's lives would not. Without their help, I might have lost my husband, and our children might have faced their lives without their daddy!

Effective leadership means mission first, people always

By Col. Robert Hamm
380th Expeditionary Maintenance
Group commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Over the years I've watched many leaders - officers, chiefs, NCOs, and Airmen alike - take our organization to ever higher levels of achievement. Like you, I have studied those I considered to be outstanding leaders, and I've watched others struggle with the challenges of leadership, but I learned from them all.

Growing up in our Air Force, I found the greatest challenge was balancing the needs of the people with the needs of the mission. It seemed to me a leader was described as either a "people person" or a "mission-oriented person," but seldom did I see a leader who effectively balanced both - until I met Master Sgt. Kenneth Kelly.

Sergeant Kelly understood it

was not only his job to make sure his shop was capable of performing its wartime tasks, but just as importantly to ensure the welfare of the troops.

"Accomplishing the mission is the primary task of every military organization; everything else must be subordinate," according to AFPAM 36-2241, Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide. "However, a successful military leader recognizes that people perform the mission and that without their support, the unit will fail. Thus meeting the needs of the people is a responsibility equal in importance to meeting the requirements of the mission."

Sergeant Kelly said it this way: "Mission first, people always." Sergeant Kelly balanced the needs of the mission with the needs of the people better than anyone I've ever known. Sergeant Kelly didn't confuse taking care of his troops with trying to make all the troops

happy. Being a leader isn't about being popular. In his mind, taking care of troops meant ensuring they were properly trained, healthy, properly equipped, held accountable to the highest standards, all the while making sure they understood our core values of integrity, excellence, and selflessness. He wasn't easy on us. He challenged our team and didn't tolerate substandard performance.

As a young Airman, I never wanted to disappoint Sergeant Kelly. As a matter of fact, at the time I didn't think he cared if we were happy or not. Incidentally, I was wrong on that one, but he was always honest, fair, and consistent.

Sergeant Kelly taught me that balancing the needs of the mission and the needs of our people isn't easy. It's an art developed over many years of experience.

It's just like Sergeant Kelly taught us. It's mission first and people always.



More than just a paint job...

More than 60 volunteers here trooped to North Heights Elementary School to help in a project, sponsored by Partners In Education and Top 3, designed to broaden communication between the base and schools in Del Rio. The project involved painting the school's extended hallways with different colors representing the ecosystem. The goal of the project is to enhance the learning environment for students. According to PIE officials, the project saved the school district more than \$3,000 in labor.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

Innkeeper, from page 1

ties were on the list of areas benefiting from the cash prizes. Additionally, the TLF units now situated in base housing opened in April this year and, with money from the AETC win, received ceiling fans.

Kathy Harting, Laughlin lodging manager, said with these upgrades and a constant emphasis on customer service, the staff is ready for this year's competition.

"Our operation has improved tremendously since winning the 2004 Innkeeper award, and this is due to the hard work, dedication, and pride of the lodging staff. It is a privilege to work with each member of the lodging team

who hope to win the Air Force Innkeeper two years running," she said.

How can it get better than this?

Laughlin's TLF units are scheduled for keyless-entry upgrades within the next 90 days, and the playground and pavilion located at the former TLF compound will be moved closer to the new units. In line with an Air Force initiative, Laughlin has two pet-friendly TLF units available and two more on the way.

Guests in the new pet-friendly TLF appreciate the ability to keep pets with them while transitioning away from or to Laughlin.

"Having our pets move in with us is great because we used to have them stay (in a kennel), and it was very ex-

pensive," said 2nd Lt. Will Sack, 47th Operations Support Squadron. "Now, it's good to have the pets' company, and we don't have to worry about them. It's good to know that Laughlin is helping pet owners, and we really appreciate it."

Although Laughlin Manor already receives high marks, lodging customers will soon have more choices and better service according to Kathy Harting.

She said, "DVD rental is coming online as we speak... plus we are making improvements in the customer service we provide our valued guests."

Currently, the manor's customer-service rating is 4.8 on a scale of one

to five, five being outstanding.

All active-duty military and DoD personnel who are on temporary duty or getting ready for a permanent change of station can call 298-5741 to make reservations. Active-duty members, DoD personnel, retirees and family members wishing to make Space Available reservations can call up to 30 days in advance for standard lodging or 72 hours in advance for TLF units.

Cost for a standard visitor's room is \$24.50 per night, and TLF units cost \$35 per night with an additional \$10 per night fee for pet-friendly units. For more information or reservations, contact the Laughlin Manor staff or log on to <http://www.afsv.af.mil/LD/>.

Drinking policy, from page 1

wine, but not "hard" liquor.

The waiver also includes any military member who is visiting and remains overnight at Laughlin. The drinking age for all civilians, to include family members of active-duty members, is governed by state law. The minimum drinking age in Texas is 21.

"As long as they have alcohol in their systems, we want them to remain on base," said Chief Pilihos. "Since they are under 21, if they leave base with alcohol in their system, they become subject to state law and could be prosecuted for underage drinking."

The chief also stresses everyone not to drink and drive. "This applies to anyone who consumes

alcohol, no matter what age," he said.

Commanders can take disciplinary action against military members who do not follow the drinking policy and violate Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, noted Capt. Lynn Sylmar, 47th FTW Deputy Staff Judge Advocate. She added that military members may face similar consequences and be held accountable if they provide alcohol to underage civilians while on base.

"In such cases, the individual's commander considers a broad range of responses and takes action as warranted by the circumstances," said Captain Sylmar. "Potential consequences include administrative action, nonjudicial punishment, or in extreme cases, court-martial."

The lowered drinking age for active-duty members does not extend beyond the base gates, Cap-

tain Sylmar explained. AFI 34-219 and the wing commander's request for waiver specifically refer to "on-base" drinking. State law also applies to the base marina. If military members conduct a party or other event at the marina, active-duty members under 21 cannot consume alcohol.

"In addition," she said, "the policy for allowing such waivers is that we don't want to encourage our members to go drinking in Mexico and then face the prospect of having to drive back to base."

Chief Pilihos added that military members should ensure they understand the policy, then follow the rules and act responsibly.

"Drink responsibly," he said. "Do not overindulge. Be responsible for your behavior. Being under the influence of alcohol is no excuse for abusive or destructive behavior."

Think inside the tunnel...



(Right) Senior Airman Jason Burd, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, hoists David Moore, an exercise victim up, during a confined-space rescue training here Tuesday.

(Left) Free Lucas, a firefighter here, prepares to descend into a confined space. The two-week training was conducted by a special rescue team from Forth Worth. During the training, Laughlin firefighters learned how to perform rescue operations in confined spaces like tunnels.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi



GRADUATION

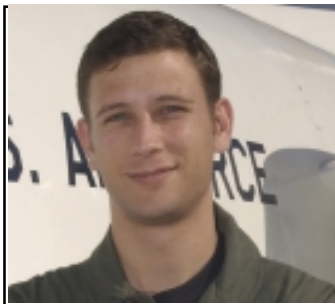
Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 05-12



Capt. Marcus Cunningham
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



Capt. Donald Garbade
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



Capt. Jeremie Huot
C-130 (ANG)
Rhode Island IAP, R.I.



Capt. Andrew Meudt
KC-135 (AFRES)
Grissom ARB, Ind.



Capt. John Ramsey III
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Hickam AFB, Hawaii



1st Lt. William Dunn
C-130
Pope AFB, N.C.



1st Lt. Menola Paiva
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



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C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. William Andreotta
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. David Densmore
F-16 (ANG)
Syracuse, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Nicholas Dey
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



2nd Lt. Keith Friedrich
C-5 (AFRES)
Lackland AFB



2nd Lt. Andrew Gambardella III
KC-135 (ANG)
March AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Cody Goetz
F-15E
Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Kevin Haines Jr.
C-21
Yokota AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Travis Jarvi
T-38C
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. James Kappes
A-10
Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Kenneth King
T-6A
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Justin Tiffany
KC-135
Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Eco-friendly fuel system offers safer, efficient ops

By Master Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Laughlin motorists will encounter fewer fuel trucks traveling on the northern edge of Liberty Drive because of the recent fuel line installation.

The trucks, used to transport fuel and service aircraft on the flightline, have a new system and area to fill up.

Two separate projects conducted by the Defense Logistics Agency over

the past two years were recently completed and replaced an outdated fuel-line system. The fuels-management staff held a ribbon cutting July 12 indicating the new fuel line was operational.

Located on the east side of Liberty Drive in a fenced-in area of the fuels-management division, the new fuel line will provide a safer and more convenient system, according to Tom Busch, who works quality assurance for fuels management.

The previous fuel line was on the west side of Liberty Drive where fuel trucks had to go into and across traffic traveling the main road, sometimes causing vehicle congestion.

Raul Rodriguez, a fuel-storage supervisor, makes the first fuel truck hook-up of the new fuel-line system during the ribbon-cutting ceremony held July 12.

tion.

“That posed some safety issues,” said Mr. Busch. “Plus, our old refueling area needed attention.”

Laughlin closed an outdated fuel line in 1995 and has used a temporary system for the past nine years. The temporary fix consisted of using hose carts as fillstands that would provide about 300 gallons of fuel per minute. Hose carts are primarily used as aircraft refueling equipment. In addition, without a containment area, the old system posed environmental concerns.

The fuels management staff services more than 4,300 aircraft with over 1.2 million gallons of jet fuel each month.

“With the large amount of flying we do here, it’s amazing how the fuels staff could maintain that level of operation (with the old system),” said Mr. Busch. “It’s attributed to the men and women within the wing who kept the system operating with no mission degradation over the past 10 years.”

The new fuel system consists of four fillstands that pump about 600

gallons per minute, state-of-the-art overfill protection controls, a secondary containment system for environmental protection, and a wider area for trucks to operate in.

“We now have faster pumping rates and more efficient operations,” said Mr. Busch, who added that the new fuel line doubled their potential output and has cut fill times in half, from 20 to 10 minutes.

With the new, modern system, the fuels staff looks to improve response times when servicing aircraft and lowering maintenance costs associated with fuel-management operations.

Ruben Cruz, an aircraft refueler, said he appreciates the new system.

“It makes it a lot easier for the (fuel truck) drivers,” he said. “It’s so neat. The pumps and the whole system make our work go much smoother.”

Michael Hardwick, another fuel operator, agreed. “It’s faster and more convenient,” he said. “And the overhead shade (above the fillstands) is a welcome addition after spending hours on the flightline.”



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Saddam Hussein to face trial soon

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service

Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein will soon go to trial, a senior Iraqi judge said during a news conference in Baghdad, Iraq Sunday.

Judge Raed Juhi, the chief judge of Iraq’s special tribunal, said the trial date is expected to be set “within days,” according to press reports.

Saddam and three other former regime members will stand trial for a July 8, 1982, massacre in Dujail, Iraq, following a failed assassination attempt against the former president. Iraqi security forces, acting on Saddam’s orders, allegedly massacred an estimated 150 villagers.

Also facing trial are Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam’s half brother and former chief of Iraqi intelligence; Taha Yassin Ramadan, former vice president; and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, former chief of the Revolutionary Court, press reports said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi investigators are continuing to prepare charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and

genocide against Saddam and former regime members in 12 other cases. They include the 1988 chemical attack on the Kurdish village of Halabja, which left 5,000 dead, and the brutal crushing of a Shiite revolt in southern Iraq in 1991.

Juhi said the investigation into those cases is “in its final stages.”

U. S. forces captured Saddam, who was hiding in a spider hole near his hometown of Tikrit, in December 2003. The Iraqi government maintains legal custody of the former dictator, although Multinational Force Iraq officials have physical custody of him at the Iraqi government’s request, defense officials said.

Saddam’s upcoming trial is expected to help bolster the security situation in Iraq, Foreign Minister Hoyshar Zebari said during a June interview.

Zebari said the evidence against the former dictator is staggering — from mass graves of those who opposed

him to the laundry list of atrocities he inflicted against his own people. “Every family has suffered from the rule of Saddam Hussein, so there is no lack of evidence whatsoever,” Zebari said. “There is an abundance of evidence to try and prosecute him.”

The Iraqi government “is very committed to putting Saddam and other members of his former regime on trial, and I personally think that this will impact the security situation,” the foreign minister said.

“It is very important that we start — the sooner the better,” he said. “That is the view of this government. It is a widely shared view across the country.”

Saddam will “be eligible for all the benefits of a free trial” and to choose his own defense team, Zebari said. “We will give him the same justice he has denied us for many years,” he said.

The final verdict, he said, “will speak for Iraqi justice.”

Miss an edition?



Log on to
www.laughlin.af.mil
from home and click on the
“Border Eagle”
icon on the left column to access archived
Border Eagle.

Base members warned against scams, ID theft

By 1st Lt. Lance Smith and
Cadet 3rd Class Nathaniel Lail
Legal office

The chance of winning the lottery strikes hope within the hearts of many Americans from coast to coast. The game of chance lures thousands each year into buying a lottery ticket in hopes of becoming the next lucky winner. For this reason when Anne Sulaiman received a letter claiming she had won a \$790,809 prize in a Spanish lottery she was thrilled. And, who wouldn't be?

Winning the lottery has invaded minds across the nation. Children even talk about what they would do if they were to win the lottery. In Anne's case unfortunately, her enthusiasm was futile; the lottery was a scam. Anne was not the first to be contacted about winning the Spanish lottery. She was one of many, including an XLER, whose stories led twelve states to be on alert about the newly christened El Gordo scam.

This single scam has spread its grotesque tentacles into the homes of many unsuspecting citizens. The El Gordo scam has become such a large threat that South Florida's Sun-Sentinel reported two women in Miami were arrested in December on fraud charges after claiming to be representatives from El Gordo lottery.

Anne was fortunate enough not to lose any money from the scam. Yet,

other people did not escape unscathed once they fell into the scam's trap. According to the Texas Attorney General's Office, a Houston woman lost almost \$7,000 trying to collect from the bogus sweepstakes.

Scams like the El Gordo lottery are referred to as foot-in-the-door scams. During this type of scam, the criminal asks for a small co-pay, in exchange for the promised lump sum. Upon payment of this first expense, the criminal has their foot in the door and they will steal your money faster than a mailman running from dogs.

The El Gordo lottery scam is one of many ways that outsiders steal your money. There is an entirely different animal that exists who silently pulls the plug on your bathtub of money draining you of all your assets. Identity theft is another threat which has caused many people to lose large amounts of their money without even realizing it. Yet, instead of a letter in the mail, or an e-mail in your inbox; this predator is a silent killer.

Thousands of transfers of personal information take place across the internet daily. The personal information you send, even if encrypted, can not be guaranteed confidential from nosy onlookers. Between submission and retrieval, your information is exposed. During that brief instant other people can intrude to intercept the message and copy your information. Credit card and social security numbers, dogs'

names and the color of your car are among a few things that can be copied for later use. With your credit card number and information, they can either slowly draw money away from your account, or choose to go buy a massively expensive 60" plasma screen with surround sound. Your information is at risk whenever submitting it over the internet. Yet, with a simple plan you can safeguard yourself from a scam and identity theft quite easily.

Six ways to safeguard against scams and identity theft:

■ *Safe guard your personal information:* Do not submit personal information without knowing who is going to keep track of it. Find out why they need the personal information and what they will do to safeguard your information from thieves.

■ *Do not pay for free money:* The concept of winning the lottery is very appealing. But exercise common sense when told you won a lottery in a foreign country and are asked to pay money to receive your prize.

■ *Mailing lists are cancer:* Joining a mailing list can be another way for thieves to hack into your computer and retrieve vital information. Never enter your email address to be removed from spam email lists-it's a trap, do not fall for it.

■ *Watch the numbers:* Keep good track of when your bank sends your statements. If your statement doesn't

come, or is a few days late call your bank and check your activity. Check to make sure your bank statement matches your expenses for each period.

■ *Change it up:* Do not keep the same password on anything waiting for someone to hack into it. Change the password on your computer, e-mail, and atm card every few weeks to keep outsiders guessing. If your savings or checking account does suffer from unexplained activity, cancel the account and move the money into a different account with a different password.

■ *Destroy vital documents:* When throwing away bank statements, receipts, or documents containing personal information, destroy the documents to make them unrecognizable. Some sort of shredding device whether it is store bought or the dog next door is a good consideration.

There are many ways for thieves to obtain your personal information. Yet, if you use a little common sense, and good practice it will discourage thieves from stealing your information.

Do not make it easy for thieves to obtain your information by giving in to their traps. Thousands have already suffered the consequences of falling into their traps; learn from their mistake and guard your personal information. Dumpster diving is still common practice among scam artists and criminals.

Do not let your trash become their treasure.



Courtesy photo

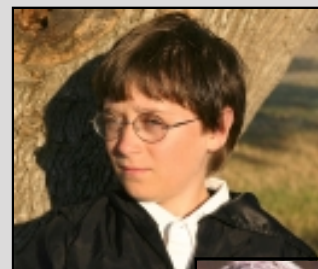
Chess champs...

(Back row) Benjamin Rivera, 2nd place; Tyler Peterson, 1st place; Yasmin George, 3rd place; (front row) Jason Raven, John Buffone and Bruce George, winners of the Chess Challenge for youth played at the Fiesta Center June 18, pose for a group photo.

The 1st place winner, Tyler Peterson, 9, beat computerized chess-master Ivan twice to win the competition.

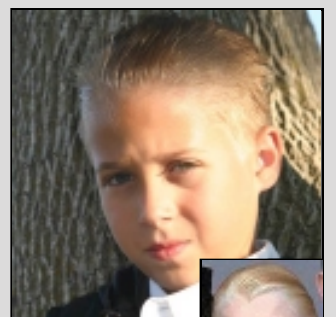
Congratulations on winning the San Antonio Express News Harry Potter-look-alike contest! Theron, 10, and Shane, 8, Burghard, sons of Kristen and Capt. Darell Burghard, 47th Mission Support Group.

Theron



Harry Potter

Shane



Draco Malfoy

Potter and Malfoy photos courtesy harry-potter.9cy.com and www.evhermine.de

Deployed XLER, Airmen give tours to Iraqi historical landmark

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
407th Air Expeditionary Group
public affairs

Although they get out and mingle often, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron personnel are used to interacting with their customers over a counter.

However, two services Airmen here get to escape from behind the counter to leave the confines of base three times a week.

Equal parts tour guide and body guard, it's their job to escort personnel assigned to Ali Base, Camp Adder and the surrounding coalition sites to the Ziggurat of Ur, a historical monument built more than 4,000 years ago by worshippers of the moon god Nanna.

"The tours allow each visitor the chance to forget work and step back into time," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Radke, 407th ESVS director of marketing and publicity, who is one of two services specialists that provide the unique service.

"Walking inside the city of Ur is a highlight of my Air Force career," said Sergeant Radke, who is deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

"This is one of the only places on earth that allows me the opportunity to see, touch and listen to a guided tour (from an Iraqi caretaker) containing more than 4,000 years of history in one location," Sergeant Radke said.

The archeological site was also said to be the home of Abraham, a biblical figure whom several religions regard as their ancestor. Along with the house of Abraham, which was recently renovated in 1999, visitors can also see the royal tombs and walk through the remains of the city.

Standing on holy ground

Although visitors are required to bring their helmet and flak vest, the Services guides are the only personnel required to carry their M-16. Throughout the tour, they are tasked with protecting the group.

"It's great that Services provides us the opportunity to see the Ziggurat," said Tech. Sgt. Luis Sanchez, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron information management noncommissioned office in charge, who is deployed from Laughlin.

"They already understand what we



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

(Back) Staff Sgt. Nat Ruiz, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron assistant Hot Spot manager who is deployed from Laughlin, provides security to protect several people deployed to Ali Base, Iraq, on a recent visit to the Ziggurat of Ur.

(Middle) Dhaif, the site's caretaker and tour guide, talks about the history of the 4,000-year-old monument.

can learn from the visit, and help us get the most out of the experience," said Sergeant Sanchez. "I appreciate that we are in a combat zone, and they keep us safe, so we don't have to worry about anything except enjoying the tour."

For one Services Airman facilitating the tour is more than just a job.

"It's a privilege to be one of the fortunate few to stand on holy ground not seen by many Westerners," said Staff Sgt. Nat Ruiz, 407th ESVS assistant Hot Spot manager, who is also deployed from Laughlin AFB.

"There is a peacefulness out there that breaks the monotony of everyday life here; it is two hours of solitude," said Sergeant Ruiz.

The mystery unfolds

The ziggurat has been restored several times. Most of the exposed outer surface of the structure visitors see today is from work done just 40 years ago.

The first two layers of the ziggurat are relatively well preserved; however, the upper level is no longer standing. The ziggurat was built in three stages taking hundreds of years to complete. The structure was unearthed in the mid 1800s by the British consul

J. E. Taylor, who partly uncovered the ziggurat.

Unlike the pyramids of Egypt, the ziggurat is a solid structure. There are no inner passages or chambers for burying former rulers. However, just a few steps from the monument there is a cemetery in the adjacent city of Ur, which was later excavated in 1922 by Sir Leonard Wooley.

Modern day storyteller

There is one man who knows the ziggurat and its surrounding sites better than anyone alive. His name is Dhaif. He lives on the grounds and takes care of the site.

Taking care of the ziggurat is a family tradition that runs in his blood. His grandfather was part of the team that helped excavate in 1922.

Dhaif and his father, who also lives there, have both participated in excavations throughout their lifetime.

Dhaif, who speaks a smattering of more than four different languages, carries many of the site's secrets around in a blue binder, tattered and worn from years of use.

In broken English he's picked up and polished through years of speaking to servicemembers from all over the world, he guides visitors through

the monument and the city's ancient past.

"It's fascinating that a man can spend his whole life in one area," said Sergeant Ruiz. "He possesses the knowledge of three generations and dedicates his life to pass it on to anyone who will listen."

A religious experience

Visiting religious sites is nothing new for Sergeant Sanchez.

"It's always been a family tradition to see the temple or main church in every town we visit," said Sergeant Sanchez. "It's been a humbling experience visiting here."

Walking inside a history book

Locked inside the bricks are ancient writings of civilizations long gone. However, they're next to impossible to locate without a guide to show visitors where to look.

Staying current on the city's mysteries is a never-ending process.

"After each strong dust storm, something new is almost always uncovered," said Sergeant Radke. "Even today, new items such as skeletons and artifacts are being uncovered by nature versus excavation."

Walking around the site evokes strong reactions in visitors.

"It's a tremble within your senses that can never be comprehended from a history book," said Sergeant Radke.

"The rise and fall of four dynasties is written on (these) brick walls with over 1,800 remains found among the royal tombs," he said.

The city's demise

The more commonly known name of the city is its biblical name, Ur of the Chaldees. This name refers to the Chaldeans, who settled in the area about 900 B.C. Passages in the Bible's book of Genesis describe Ur as the starting point of the migration westward to Palestine for the family of Abraham around 1900 B.C.

During the Chaldean dynasty, King Nebuchadnezzar II ruled over another period of construction at the city of Ur. However less than a century later, Babylonia came under the control of Persia, and Ur began its decline.

Historians speculate the change was most likely due to a combination of warfare in the area combined with a shift in the Euphrates River, which decreased its value as a trade route.

When severe weather strikes...

Safety Tips

Before a storm:

- Decide where to go when a warning is issued.
- Have a plan, share it with your family, and make sure everyone understands the plan.
- Create a severe-weather kit. Include flashlights, batteries, a radio, water, non-perishable food items and other supplies.
- Tune in and listen to local television or radio broadcasts for weather updates, warnings, watches and possible evacuation information as appropriate.

During a storm:

- Listen to local TV or radio broadcasts for updates on weather paths or sheltering.

After a storm:

- Follow TV and radio updates about dangers caused by the storm that might still be causing delays. Pay attention to information about flooding or debris blocking roads.

For additional tips, log onto <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/severewx/safety.html>

By Kathy White
Public affairs

Although Hurricane Emily didn't affect Laughlin Air Force Base, it reminds us to be vigilant about severe weather. The base isn't immune from the effects of severe weather.

Tornado-producing storms and torrential rains are among the dangerous byproducts of hurricanes when they move this far inland. Laughlin seldom gets tagged by a hurricane, but severe storms can happen any time. Heavy rain can cause flash floods in this area.

Do you know the differences between watches and warnings? Do you know what to do if there's severe weather in the area?

A watch means conditions are favorable for a severe weather event to occur.

A warning is reserved for when it's happening. For example, a tornado warning means a tornado has been

sighted in the warning area.

Before there's a watch or a warning, have a plan. Decide where you will go for shelter. In most cases, it's your home or workplace. Pick a place away from windows and make sure everyone knows to go there. Have a battery-operated radio in that space.

Your actions in the watch phase can make the difference if a warning is issued. First, pay attention. Commercial radio and television stations will keep you posted when watches are issued for tornadoes and flash floods. Weather information also goes out across base computers and base cable-access channel 34.

If there are precautions you can take, take them. For example, if they're predicting a severe storm with high winds, stow patio furniture and other outdoor items that could become projectiles.

If a warning is issued, take action immediately. If

it's a tornado warning, seek shelter. In most cases, your home or workplace is your shelter, but base trailer park and FAMCAMP residents should go to Laughlin Manor. If you live off base, the same advice applies. In most cases, your home is your shelter, but if you live in a trailer, go to a more solid structure.

If the warning is for a flash flood, head for higher ground. Do not drive or walk into running water regardless of whether you think you can make it across. People die in flash floods every year. In many cases, the water didn't look that deep or swift, but there was enough power to wash them away.

There are plenty of tips that will help you survive treacherous weather. One site available online comes from the National Weather Service. Look it up at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/severewx/safety.html>.

Do it before the watch or warning is issued.

Did you know

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone-an organized rotating weather system that develops in the tropics.

Hurricanes rotate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

--Tropical Depression - An organized system of persistent clouds and thunderstorms with a closed low-level circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.

--Tropical Storm - An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a well defined circulation and

maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.

--Hurricane - An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. In the western North Pacific, hurricanes are called typhoons, and similar storms in the Indian Ocean are called cyclones.

Hurricane-force winds and storm tides can destroy buildings, homes and take lives. More than 8,000 people were killed in the 1900 Galveston hurricane, most by the storm tide.

Why are hurricanes named?
Tropical cyclones are

named to provide ease of communication between forecasters and viewers regarding forecasts, watches and warnings.

Since the storms can often last several days and multiple storms could develop at the same time, names reduce confusion over which storm is being described.

These and other facts can be found on the National Weather Service website at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>.

Additionally, readers can access brochures with tornado, hurricane and other severe-weather preparation information and safety tips from the NWS site.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds (MPH)	Damage
1	74-95	Minimal
2	96-110	Moderate
3	111-130	Extensive
4	131-155	Extreme
5	>155	Catastrophic

Examples: Category	Hurricane	Year
1	Irene	1999
2	Georges	1998
2	Floyd	1999
3	Betsy	1965
3	Alicia	1983
4	Andrew	1992
5	Camille	1969

(Information from <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>.)

Air Force recognizes Iraqi name of air base

By Capt. David Small
U.S. Central Command Air
Forces Forward
public affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- What's in a name? In the case of Ali Base, years of history. Ali Base, situated near the city of An Nasiriyah, in south central Iraq, is the main airfield in southern Iraq from which Iraqi, coalition and U.S. Airmen operate. Until January, coalition forces called the base Tallil. Now, all use the legacy name: Ali Base.

"Our Iraqi partners have always referred to this installation as Ali Base," said Col. Dennis Diggett, former 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander at the base.

"It appears that sometime after Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Ali Base was incorrectly labeled 'Tallil' on Department of Defense maps," said Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander. "It's a bit of a mystery. We don't know why that was done."

The discrepancy came to light in January at a joint ceremony where Iraqi and coalition forces stood up the 23rd Squadron, the new Iraqi air force's C-130 Hercules unit there.

"As part of the 23rd Squadron activation ceremony, Maj. Gen. Kamal Abdul Satar Al-Barazench, chief of staff of the Iraqi air

force, unveiled a new sign: Ali Base. We learned then that the base had always been Ali," General Buchanan said. "In fact, we learned that General Kamal himself had even been the Ali Base commander during part of the Iran-Iraq War."

General Buchanan said he looks on that day as a milestone in the cooperation between the U.S. Air Force and the new Iraqi air force.

"It was a great day for our partnership. We assisted Iraq by giving them three C-130s and committing to training Iraqi pilots, navigators and (maintainers) so they can in turn work to secure stability for their own country," the general said. "I thought it was a great sign of our mutual respect that General Kamal and his staff were willing to tell us about our oversight."

General Buchanan then directed Airmen to call Ali Base by its legacy name.

Because Tallil had become the commonplace name used by Airmen but was never its official name, there was no need to take any official act to rename it Ali

Base, CENTAF officials said. Coordination is under way with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to incorporate the revision into future charts and maps.

"Ali Base has a history that is important to the local Iraqi community, and as coalition partners, it is important we respect that," General Buchanan said.

Built in the 1970s and serving as the busiest military airfield during Iraq's war with Iran in the 1980s, it is now home to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group, the Iraqi air force's 23rd Squadron, and the U.S. Army's Logistics Support Areas Cedar and Adder.

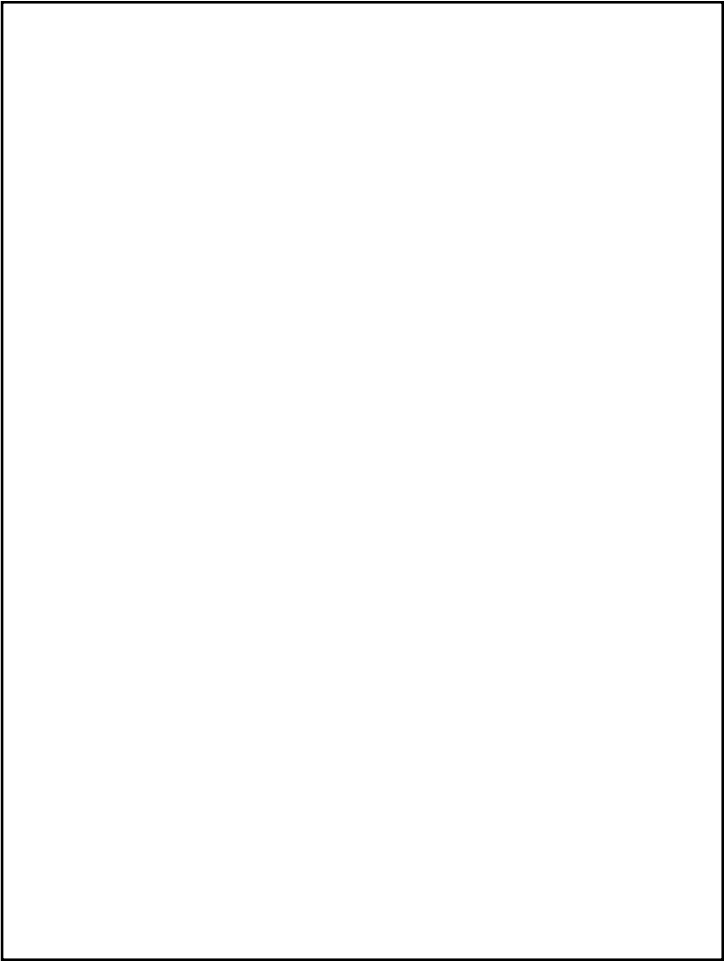
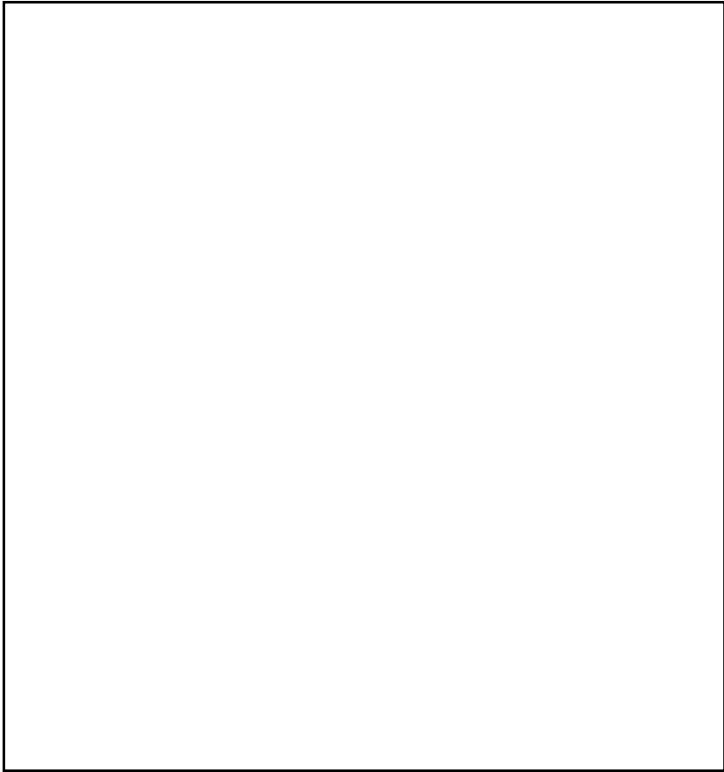
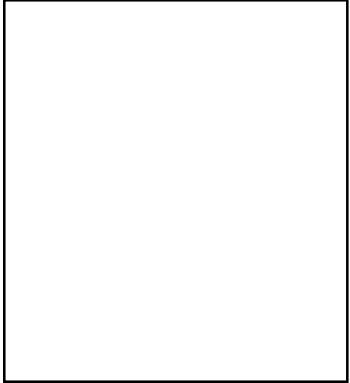
When the 1991 Gulf War occurred, the airfield was heavily bombed and virtually destroyed. Ultimately, the base became off limits to Iraqi forces while U.S. and British patrols enforced the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Airmen in air and space expeditionary force rotations with Ali Base as an endpoint can expect some confusion concerning the name change,

officials said. No money will be spent to correct institutional discrepancies between the two names, having erred in calling it Tallil for so long, CENTAF officials said.

Some of these institutional discrepancies include

e-mail on the global address list, administrative codes, phone books and directories. Many of these things have already been corrected here, but may be slow to change throughout the rest of the Air Force.



XLer



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

Tech. Sgt. Rance Lane
47th Civil Engineer Squadron
Enlisted Dorm Manager

Hometown: Sedalia, Mo.

Family: Wife, Shaila, and daughter, Taylor

Time at Laughlin: 4 years, 10 months

Time in service: 15 years

Greatest accomplishment: Becoming a father and making (master sergeant) the first time testing

Hobbies: Weight lifting and spending time with my family

Bad habit: Telling too many exaggerated stories to dorm residents

Favorite movies: “Gladiator,” “Braveheart,” and “Dances with Wolves”

If you could spend one hour

with any person, who would it be and why? My Wife and Daughter, who are currently at Goodfellow, and I’m not able to spend the quality time with them. I would love to spend as much time with them as possible because they are what make me the person that I am.

Editor’s note: Tech. Sgt. Rance Lane was nominated as the XLer after he secured 50 tickets for dorm residents and accompanied them to visit Schlitterbahn.

Laughlin Salutes

First-Term Airman Class Graduates

- Senior Airman Joshua Crowley, 47th Medical Operations Squadron
- Airman 1st Class Sandra Eddings, 47th Medical Support Squadron
- Airman Dustin Blanchard, 47th Security Forces Squadron
- Airman Danielle Crowley, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron
- Airman James Aultman, 47th Communications Squadron

Daedalian Scholarship winner:

- Melissa Dudek, University of South Alabama

Laughlin Family Support Center

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8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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Tech. Sgt.
Thomas
Mayo at
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